

### *Highlights from February's District Work Period*

February's District Work Period gave U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell another opportunity to meet with constituents, hear their concerns and update them on his work in Washington. While he returns home every weekend, a district work period provides the Congressman additional opportunities to hear from a wide mix of groups and individuals, including business leaders, educators, parents, veterans and local health care providers.

Here is a highlight of some of his work over the recent congressional recess:

- **Supporting Local Scottsdale Businesses**
- **Fast Tracking Jobs through Education**
- **Fighting for our Veterans**
- **Meeting our Children's Essential Needs**
- **Fighting the Automatic Pay Raise for Members of Congress**

### **Supporting Locally-Owned Scottsdale Businesses**

U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell joined Local First Arizona and Scottsdale tourism and business leaders to announce the addition of local Scottsdale businesses to Local First Arizona. The economic downturn has particularly hurt Scottsdale's tourism industry and Local First is increasing its efforts to highlight and encourage Arizonans to support locally-owned and operated restaurants, shops and businesses which can have greater economic impact in local

economies.

*Phoenix Business Journal:* [Local First Arizona zeroes in on Scottsdale](#)

*Arizona Republic:* ['Small Wonders' map to help keep sales tax dollars in Scottsdale](#)

KTAR: [Map aims to help small businesses](#)

Video: [KNXV covers Unveiling of Scottsdale 'Small Wonders' map](#)

Video: [KPHO covers Local First Unveiling of Scottsdale map](#)

Mitchell also participated the Greater Phoenix SCORE event that honored local businesswoman Maryanne Weiss as the first-ever National Bank of Arizona's Women of the Year who consistently works to mentor and support local businesses owners grow their businesses. Additionally, Mitchell visited three local Tempe manufacturers to talk about their innovative job creation and expansion efforts.

## **Fast Tracking Jobs through Education**

Mitchell joined students, educators and business and non-profit leaders to raise awareness of a new public-private partnership that is helping to build a stronger, more skilled workforce by providing increased access to higher education for Arizonans.

*East Valley Tribune:* [East Valley school briefs: Rep. Mitchell to praise MCC program](#)

Mesa Community College: [U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell Highlights Public-Private Higher Ed Program at MCC](#)

Video: [KPNX covers Fast Tracking the Dream at Mesa Community College](#)

Mitchell also held four different roundtable discussion forums with educator groups and parent councils in Ahwatukee, Tempe and Scottsdale.

### **Serving our Veterans**

Congressman Mitchell spoke at the ninth annual Arizona Stand Down at Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Operation Stand Down connects homeless veterans with services that can help them turn their lives around. More than 1,000 veterans showed up this year.

*Arizona Republic:* [Volunteers offer homeless vets support, resources](#)

Video: [KPNX interviews Congressman Mitchell about Arizona Operation Stand Down](#)

### **Meeting our Children's Essential Needs**

Congressman Mitchell attended the grand opening of Helen's Hope Chest in Mesa, a program dedicated to providing clothes, books and school supplies to children in need. House speaker Kirk Adams, U.S. Senator John McCain also attended the opening.

*East Valley Tribune:* [Helen's Hope Chest opens for foster children](#)

## **Fighting the Automatic Pay Raise for Members of Congress**

*The East Valley Tribune* ran a piece authored jointly by Congressman Mitchell and Congressman Ron Paul of Texas regarding their efforts to block the automatic pay raise Members of Congress are due to receive in fiscal year 2011. Mitchell and Paul successfully blocked the 2010 pay raise. In years where the pay raise was not blocked, Mitchell has donated his raise to local Arizona charities.

*East Valley Tribune:* [Mitchell and Paul: Lawmakers should not raise salaries](#)